

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/842,683

Examiner

Luke S. Wassum

Applicant(s)

MAEDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final Amendment filed 11 December 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Luke S. Wassum
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2167

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Applicants' after-final amendment, filed 11 December 2006, has been received, entered into the record, and considered.
2. As a result of the amendment, claim 19 has been amended. Claims 1-13 and 21-26 have been previously canceled. Claims 14-18 have been previously allowed. Claims 14-20 remain pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14-20 are allowed.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bennett et al. (U.S. Patent 4,591,983) teaches a hierarchical knowledge system.

Cornett et al. (U.S. Patent 5,216,612) teaches an intelligent computer integrated maintenance system and method.

Schlabach et al. (U.S. Patent 6,950,829) teaches a method for storing and accessing personnel to service selected assemblies of selected equipment.

Yamaoka et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0029473) teaches an information providing system for providing information about procurement.

Kimoto et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0037341) teaches an information providing system for providing information about suppliers.

Ito et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0042030) teaches an information providing system for providing information about parts.

Schlabach et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0026537) teaches a method of training service personnel to service selected equipment.

Squeglia et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0156692) teaches a method and system for managing supply of replacement parts of a piece of equipment.

Mitsuoka et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0254864) teaches a parts catalog creating system and program.

Squeglia et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0187838) teaches a method and system for managing supply of replacement parts of a piece of equipment.

Sears ("www.searspartsdirect.com website ") teaches a website for ordering parts and providing detailed diagrams to help find the desired part.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke S. Wassum whose telephone number is 571-272-4119. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

In addition, INFORMAL or DRAFT communications may be faxed directly to the examiner at 571-273-4119. Such communications must be clearly marked as INFORMAL, DRAFT or UNOFFICIAL.

Customer Service for Tech Center 2100 can be reached during regular business hours at (571) 272-2100, or fax (571) 273-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Luke S. Wassum
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Art Unit 2167

lsw
21 December 2006